

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

A Portion to Live On

March 22, 2020



AS WE GATHER

When you find yourself in the desert of “no one cares” it begins a process of isolation that eventually erupts with all kinds of cries to God. It’s no fun. If somehow you could get just a little morsel of relief, a little acknowledgment, you’d feel a whole lot better. Psalm 142 brings the hope and portion that you need.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 42:5–7*

Pastor: Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

People: **who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:**

Pastor: “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

People: **to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.”**

HYMN

LSB 411 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Joel 2:13; Isaiah 42:16

Pastor: In the darkness of the world around us and amid our own blindness to His will and ways, God calls us to confess our sins.

People: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Pastor: God of God, Light of light,

People: we confess that by nature we are sinful and unclean, born in darkness. We are often blind to Your Word and Your work in our lives, sinning against You and against one another in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of Jesus, who is the light of the world, forgive me all my sins, that my eyes may be opened and my heart enlightened to look to You in faith and hope.

Pastor: “And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.”

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through His death on the cross, Jesus Christ has shined His eternal light of forgiveness, peace, and life on you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 27:4–6*

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lent season is one of repentance and renewal, and today through God's Word we recognize the times of sinful darkness and spiritual blindness. Isaiah identifies the blindness that is not of the eyes but of the heart. Paul reminds us of the light that exposes our sin, but the greater call is to walk in the light of Christ. In the Holy Gospel, a man blind from birth is healed by Jesus but experiences an even greater sight of light away from the darkness of unbelief. In this season of Lent, even in times of darkness, we continue to follow Christ to the cross as we hear His Word and rejoice in His light of truth.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

14 “For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. **15** I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. **16** I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. **17** But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. **18** “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! **19** Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? **20** You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.” **21** It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 142*

1 I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. **2** I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. **3** When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. **4** Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares

for my life. **5** I cry to you, LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” **6** Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. **7** Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:8–14*

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) **10** and find out what pleases the Lord. **11** Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. **12** It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. **13** But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. **14** This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 9:1–41*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” **3** “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. **4** As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” **6** After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the

saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. **7** "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. **8** His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" **9** Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." **10** "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. **11** He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." **12** "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. **13** They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. **14** Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. **15** Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." **16** Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. **17** Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." **18** They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. **19** "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" **20** "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. **21** But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." **22** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23** That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." **24** A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." **25** He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" **26** Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" **28** Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! **29** We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." **30** The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. **32** Nobody has ever heard of opening the

eyes of a man born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” **34** To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. **35** Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” **37** Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” **38** Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” **40** Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” **41** Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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MESSAGE “A Portion to Live On” Psalm 142

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

HYMN LSB 738 “Lord Of All Hopefulness”



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully

served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. As we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.
The Lord bless you and keep you.

People: **I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them.**

Pastor: The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

People: **I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.**

Pastor: The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.

People: **These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.**

HYMN LSB 727 "On Eagles' Wings"



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
3 You need not fear the _____ ter - ror of the night, Nor the
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com-mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
fam - ine will bring you no fear;
ar - row that flies _____ by day; Though
guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My _____ ref - uge, My _____
Un - der His wings your _____ ref - uge, His _____
thou - sands _____ fall a - bout you,
on their _____ hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock_____ in whom_____ I_____ trust!"
faith - ful - ness_____ your_____ shield.
Near you it shall_____ not_____ come.
dash_____ your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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